

THE KING LEGACY AWARD FOR
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to "The King Legacy Award for International Service." In January 2007, Greek Ambassador Alexandros Mallias received this coveted award for his contributions to peace in the Balkans, to Greek-American relations, and to efforts to prevent such abhorrent practices as human trafficking, which is a modern form of slavery.

Accepting the award, the Greek ambassador spoke of Dr. King's struggle for freedom and against discrimination in the context of the search for justice memorialized by classic Greek tragic playwrights, like Aeschylus in his play "Prometheus Bound" and Sophocles in his play "Antigone." He also highlighted the inspiration given by Dr. King to struggles for democracy worldwide, including Greece during military dictatorship in the late 1960s, and against discrimination, noting also that AHEPA, the largest and oldest Greek-American association, was founded in Atlanta, GA in 1922, precisely to defend Greek immigrants from persecution and segregation.

Below is an article Ambassador Mallias wrote on Dr. King and the Greek classics.

[From the Washington Times, Jan. 29, 2008]

DR. KING AND THE GREEK CLASSICS

(By Alexandros P. Mallias)

This year will mark the 40th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. His death on April 4, 1968, found my country in the midst of one of its darkest hours, as the one year anniversary of an oppressive military dictatorship neared.

With my fellow citizens living under military rule and deprived of the very basic freedoms, I was inspired by the people of Birmingham, Ala., of Memphis and Atlanta, who, in a most dignified way, poured into the streets, standing up for what was rightly theirs.

Across the Atlantic, the civil-rights movement reached us in the clarion voice of Martin Luther King Jr., and hope stirred in the hearts of many Greek people like myself that "We", too, "Shall Overcome."

Upon my arrival in Washington as Greece's ambassador, and influenced by what I call the current "Golden Age for the Classics" in the United States, I have gone back to the staples of my education with new appreciation—Sophocles, Plato, Homer, Heraclitus, Thucydides. And I realized that the Rev. King's speeches and homilies are fraught with references to the Greek classics.

I pored over his writings and speeches and realized his was no simple preaching. I began to sense he had a profound understanding of what we call the "classics." In his Nobel acceptance speech, he spoke of Greek literature, of Homer and the temptresses Sirens, of Orpheus—not in dry academic fashion, but as part and parcel of his understanding of the world.

As the beneficiary of a classical education, as were most young Greeks of my generation, the words of Dr. King brought to mind great orators of ancient Greece—Demosthenes, for one, who had to overcome his own particular limitations.

In his sermon "Loving Your Enemies," delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 17, 1957, Dr. King expounded on the power and comprehensiveness of the Greek language, explaining how Greek "comes to our aid beautifully in giving us the real meaning and depth of the whole philosophy of love . . . for you see the Greek language has three words for love . . . eros . . . a sort of aesthetic love. Plato talks about it a great deal in his dialogues, a sort of yearning of the soul for the realm of the gods. Then the Greek language talks about philia . . . the intimate affection between personal friends. The Greek language comes out with another word for love. It is the word agape . . . the understanding, creative, redemptive good will for all men. It is a love that seeks nothing in return."

Erudite men and women have researched the education of Dr. King, concluding that he studied the ancient Greek classics at length and drew inspiration not only from the Bible, but also from ancient Greek philosophers, playwrights and political figures.

Dr. King's "Letter From Birmingham Jail" of April 16, 1963, was addressed to his fellow clergymen and expounded upon his own theory of civil disobedience: "I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment . . . is in reality expressing the highest respect for law" brought to mind Antigone, a reluctant but inevitably brave heroine, in Sophocles' namesake play, who said: "I will not obey an unjust law, and if something happens because of it—so be it."

This was not wasted on classics professor Lewis Sussman of the University of Florida, who wrote extensively on this connection.

I need no further proof of the inspiration Dr. King imparted from the classics than his own words in the last speech of his life, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," which resounded around the world on April 3, 1968, just one day before his assassination in Memphis: "I would take my mental flight by Egypt through, or rather across the Red Sea, through the wilderness on toward the promised land. And in spite of its magnificence, I wouldn't stop there. I would move on by Greece, and take my mind to Mount Olympus. And I would see Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Euripides and Aristophanes assembled around the Parthenon as they discussed the great and eternal issues of reality."

Dr. King's words continue to inspire me. And what I impart from him is similar to what I imparted from the ancient Greek tradition that the "good life" is the one in which the individual partakes in the responsibility and concerns of all society.

HONORING ALIPIO COCO CABRERA

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alipio Coco Cabrera on his 25th anniversary in radio and television broadcasting. Coco can be considered a communicator by nature. He was born in Villa Mella, Dominican Republic. He started his career as a journalist for "Noti Tiempo" commercial radio station as well as a writer for "El Nacional" newspaper. Coco immigrated to the United States in 1978, settling in New York City. He continued to

work for Dominican Republic Media but also became a radio correspondent for "Radio Mil and Nacional."

Coco received a contract with Hispanic Broadcasting Association, HBC, to work on many of their projects. He is now part of the powerful radio and television chain known as Univision. He can be heard on various radio programs, "Coco and Gisela," "Coco Clasicos," and "The Coco and Celines Show" on 105.9 Latin Mix. This show is known as one of the most important morning radio shows in the New York area. He has also made guest appearances on Univision TV shows such as "Despierta America," "Al Despertar" and "Don Francisco Presenta."

Throughout his career, Coco has received numerous national and international awards, which include: "Cassandra Distinguished Radio Personality," presented by the Association of Arts & Journalism of Santo Domingo. He was the first Dominican to receive this award that lived outside the country. In 2007, Coco received the "Distinguished Journalist and Citizen Award" presented by Dr. Pedro Henriquez Ureña, director of Human Rights Organization of Santo Domingo.

Alipio Coco Cabrera is a veteran of radio and is best known for his unique style and electric personality. It is only fitting that on February 17, 2008, he will be honored for 25 years in the radio broadcasting business at a banquet to be held at the United Palace Theater in New York City.

Please join me in honoring Alipio Coco Cabrera for his outstanding achievements and in congratulating him, his children Jean Carols and Jacyra.

RECOGNIZING UNO, THE FIRST
BEAGLE TO WIN "BEST IN
SHOW" AT THE 2008 WEST-
MINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG
SHOW

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Uno, the first beagle to win "Best In Show" at the 132nd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden.

Uno was bred and is co-owned by Kathy Weichert, of Belleville, IL. While Uno came into this competition with 32 previous best in show ribbons, he faced considerable competition at this year's Westminster event. Not only had no beagle ever won "Best In Show" at Westminster, no beagle had even placed first in the hound division since 1939.

Uno not only won the recognition of the judges at this year's Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, but he was also the fan's favorite as was made evident by the rousing, standing ovation from the capacity crowd at Madison Square Garden when his victory was announced.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathy Weichert, owner of K-Run Kennels in Belleville, IL and recognizing Uno, this year's "Best In Show" winner at the 2008 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.